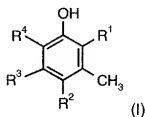


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application, please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for hydrodehalogenating halogenated meta-cresols of the formula (I)



in which the R¹ to R⁴ radicals are each independently hydrogen or halogen, but at least one of these radicals is halogen, comprising:

a) preparing a catalyst by applying one or more salts of palladium and/or platinum and optionally copper salts to an aluminum oxide or titanium oxide support material; and

~~characterized in that b)~~ contacting the halogenated meta-cresols of the formula (I) with the catalyst ~~are contacted with a catalyst which has been prepared by applying one or more salts of palladium and/or platinum and optionally copper salts to an aluminum oxide or titanium oxide support material, together with hydrogen, at temperatures between 100 and 250°C.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that halogenated meta-cresols of the formula (I) in which~~ wherein at least two of the R¹ to R⁴ radicals are each chlorine ~~are used.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~ according to claim [1s]

1-and 2, characterized in that it wherein the step of contacting is performed at a temperature of 150 to 250°C.

4. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~ according to claim[[s]] 1-to-3, characterized in that wherein from 0.5 to 50 mol of hydrogen ~~are is~~ used per mole of halogen in the halogenated meta-cresol of formula (I) used.

5. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~ according to claim[[s]] 1-to 4, characterized in that wherein the hydrogen is used in in the form of a mixture with an inert gas.

6. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~ according to claim[[s]] 1-to-5, characterized in that wherein the preparation of the catalyst ~~has been prepared by~~ comprises applying PdCl₂, PtCl₂ and/or PtCl₄ to an aluminum oxide or titanium dioxide support material.

7. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~ according to claim[[s]] 1-to-6, wherein the preparation of the catalyst ~~characterized in that the catalyst has been prepared by~~ applying PdCl₂, PtCl₂ and/or PtCl₄ to an aluminum oxide or titanium dioxide support material ~~and additionally~~ further comprises applying CuCl or CuCl₂ to the support material.

8. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~ according to claim[[s]] 1-to-7, wherein ~~characterized in that the catalyst has been~~ is prepared by applying a total amount of from 0.5 to 100 g of one or more salts of palladium and/or platinum and optionally copper salts to one liter of aluminum oxide or titanium oxide support material.

9. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~ according to claim[[s]] 1-to-8, characterized in that it step b) is performed at pressures in the range from 1 to 5 bar and in the gas phase.

10. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~ according to claim[[s]] 1-to-9, further comprising subsequent to steps a) and b):

c) collecting a characterized in that the product mixture of steps b) and present after the hydrodehalogenation reaction is subsequently sent to aproviding the same for a subsequent chlorination reaction.